



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/806,074	03/22/2004	Gerhard H. Wenzel	032016-0132	1393
26371	7590	10/04/2005		
FOLEY & LARDNER 777 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE SUITE 3800 MILWAUKEE, WI 53202-5308			EXAMINER PELHAM, JOSEPH MOORE	
			ART UNIT 3742	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SP

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/806,074	Applicant(s) WENZEL, GERHARD H.	
	Examiner Joseph M. Pelham	Art Unit 3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2005.
 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-19, 21-26, 28-31, 33-39 and 41-53 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-19, 21-26, 28-31, 33-39 and 41-53 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/20/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3742

The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's submission of the amendment filed 7/20/05. Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-26, 28-31, 33-39, and 41-53 are now pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1- 9, 11-19, 21-26, 28-31, 33-39, 41, 42, 44-48, and 50-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. 5223290 (US'290) in view of U.S. Pat. 5883362 (US'362).

Referring to Figs. 1-4, 6a, & 6b; and col. 2, line 23, through col. 4, line 10 ("2:23 - 4:10"), 4:64 - 5:6, and 5:28 - 6:3, US'290 discloses an indexing belt conveyor, user control of indexing cycle times and/or heater function, where the food item stops in the heating chamber and continues on completion of heating, and both heating and standby modes (5:30-41).

The claims differ from US'290 only in calling for heaters attaining operating temperatures within a time period "on the order of seconds," heaters above and below the heating chamber and separated from the same by IR transmissive glass members, a plurality of operating programs, indexing by means of motor activation and deactivation, and selection of continuous or indexed movement. The Examiner firstly notes that indexing by means of motor activation and deactivation, and selection of continuous or indexed movement, do not patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art: motor activation and deactivation has long been a conventional manner of indexing, and selection of continuous or indexed movement, both of which US'290 discloses while saying no more about the manner of selecting between them, would, if not inherently disclosed by US'290, be integrated and selectable as a matter of course to allow the same oven to apply either mode; hence such would have been immediately obvious to the artisan.

Referring to the Figures and col. 1, line 42, through col. 2, line 13, US'362 discloses quartz-halogen heaters 16, 18 which are known to reach operating temperatures within "seconds," located above and below the heating chamber and separated from the same by IR transmissive glass members 20, 24, and a plurality of operating programs. It would have been obvious to adapt the "Lightwave" heating and control system of US'362 to the oven of US'290 since US'362 teaches such heating means to provide uniquely rapid and penetrating cooking, and appropriately to in a conveyor oven to meet the continuous demand in a commercial environment.

Claims 43 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US'290 in view of US'362, as applied to claims 1- 42, 44-48, and 50-53 above, and further in view of either of US Pats. 6369360 (US'360) or US Pat. 6262396 (US'396).

The claims differ from US'290 in view of US'362 only in reciting a ribbon heater. However, either US'360 (col. 4, lines 31-36) or US'396 (col. 4, lines 40-53) discloses a ribbon heater for use in an oven. It would have been obvious to utilize a ribbon heater in the oven of US'290 in view of US'362 to both enhance heater durability and lessen the internal heater space requirement.

Art Unit: 3742

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1- 42, 44-48, and 50-53 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

With respect to Applicant's questioning of a motive to combine US'396 with US'290, however, the Examiner notes that although US'396 uses ribbon heaters for "finishing," this does not discourage their use in a conveyor oven such as that of US'290 where food finishing is needed in a commercial environment, and the control means of the US'396 oven (or US362) would accommodate the various foods to be finished.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph M Pelham whose telephone number is 571-272-4786. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

4/14/05



JOSEPH PELHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER